DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: What are the reasons that the unit did not function?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: There are number of reasons for that. For starting this project, we had taken components from different parts of the world. Therefore, for the functioning of this unit, all these problems have come.

[Translation]

Desert Development Programme

*127. SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur has identified many areas in Rajasthan which are not covered under the Desert Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details of such areas;

(c) whether non-inclusion of such areas under Desert Development Programme is likely to lead to expansion of the desert area;

(d) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has submitted a memorandum to the National Committee on Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme for the inclusion of these areas under the Desert Development Programme: and

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to take appropriate action for inclusion of such areas under the Desert Development Programme?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) At the instance of the Government of Rajasthan the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur, Rajasthan examined the climatic data of Sirohi, Ajmer and Jaipur districts to find out arid areas not covered under Desert Development Programme (DDP). The results indicated the following:—

Districts	*Percent arid areas of the district*
Sirohi	14.15
Ajmer	12.46
Jaipur	3.13

(c) The research findings of CAZRI reveal that the desert is not expanding.

(d) In the Memorandum of the Government of Rajasthan, a suggestion either to include under DDP or take up as a 100% centrally sponsored programme, development of fringe areas to the DDP districts where desertic conditions in lesser or greater extent prevail, has been made. This proposal covers most of the areas identified by CAZRI.

(e) A Committee headed by Shri L.C. Jain, the then member, Planning Commission in its report submitted to Government of India in August 1990 has recommended transfer of DDP to the States for implementation. In view of this suggestion for transfer, the Committee was of the view that the States would themselves identify areas for future coverage of this programme. Comments of concerned State Government on the report of Committee have now been received and the Government of India will take a view in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: My first question is whether an area of more than 4,000 km. with desertive conditions in Udaipur, Jaipur, Ajmer and Sirohi districts are not covered under the Desert Development Programme? Similarly, has the provision of drinking water been made in the Desert Development Programme?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: I have already replied to the question the hon. Member has asked. I am ready to give the details of the area in square miles. In these three

districts, if he desires. I have these figures with at the moment.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is asking whether the provision of drinking water has been made or not.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: This provision has been made. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please check the information.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per my information the provision of drinking water has not been made. The hon. Minister is giving wrong information...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your second supplementary?

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Minister not aware of it? He is giving wrong information. (*Interruptions*)... Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can development take place in a desert area without the provision of drinking water...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, the question that has been put is whether three or four districts have been included in the scope of this scheme. The answer is, they have given the percentages and they have also said that in connection with the spreading of the desert, the finding is that desert is not spreading into these districts. There is another angle to the question; that all these programmes should be made over to the State Government. The then Planning Commission Member gave a report saying: "Now you do not go into all these things, Let the State Government take care". So we have nothing to say whether the desert is spreading or not spreading in these districts right now, because we are considering whether we should make over the entire programme to the State Government as recommended by the then Planning Commission Member. We will have to take a view on that—if we really want to keep it, as other State Governments seem to recommend, then we will have to go into other details and then we can come up with the answer. But right now the position is whether the whole scheme is to be given over to the State Government in which case we will have nothing to do and we will only be paying the money to the State Government. That is the position. We will have to take a view in the very near future.

MR. SPEAKER: The question was whether drinking water will be provided?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: No. It is said that the drinking water has not been covered. If it has not been covered, it needs to be covered. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your question has been replied. Shri Digvijaya Singh.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: I would like to ask the Prime Minister about the process of verification, that is the process of desert formation is no longer confined to Rajasthan. It is spreading—I personally know it—to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana also. (*Interruptions*) I would ask the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether he would consider sending a team to examine whether the process of desert formation has been extending in Jhabua, Dhar districts of Madhya Pradesh?

MR. SPEAKER: It is outside the scope. Shri Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir. So far as the question of handing over the entire desert development programme to the Government of Rajasthan on the basis of Laxmi Jain's recommendations, is there any timeframe within which the Government has to take this decision?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Very soon. There is a little hitch there. All the other State Governments do not want this to be done. So the Planning Commission Member wants it to be done and the State Governments do not want it to be done. That is the dilemma in which we are.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Not Rajasthan Government.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, through you, I would like to know when the desert area was examined. Many years have elapsed since the examination then and now the circumstances have changed. I would like the Planning Commission to examine it afresh whether the desert is expanding. The reality is that the desert area is expanding rapidly. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask question.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I would like to know from the hon. Minister when the examination was done? Will the findings of that examination be withdrawn and the whole task handed over to the State Government with the provision of financial assistance?

[*English*]

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: If there is any dispute about the findings of this institute, we will request the institute to have a look at it again. Because there should be no difficulty in finding out as to what is the truth. If the old finding is out of date or things have changed, circumstances have changed since then, we will go into it.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Sir, through you I want to ask the hon. Prime Minister, since he has said that drinking water needs to be included, whether he would make a statement because drinking water is the most essential thing.

MR. SPEAKER: The statement is not necessary. Mr. Lodha, I am not allowing it. This statement itself is a statement.

Now, Mr. Mathur.

(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR: It is surprising to note that the Report has been submitted that the Desert is not advancing. It is definitely advancing towards Delhi. The Report by an expert has clearly indicated that there are 11 gaps. Pushkar gap is a very important and prominent gap through which the Desert is advancing very fast. If this is so and if the Report is presented to the Planning Commission and the Government of India, I think a second look should be given to it.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said, it can be examined again. The hon. Prime Minister said that it can be examined again.

Now, Question Hour is over.